

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BUENOS 05716 261723Z

46

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

OMB-01 AID-05 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SY-05 SSC-01 SCCT-01

DHA-02 OC-05 CCO-00 SCA-01 /072 W  
----- 083092

O R 261640Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2415

INFO USCINCSO

DOD WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 5716

DOD PASS DIA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ASEC, AR

SUBJECT: TENSIONS IN ARMED FORCES

REF: BA 5679

SUMMARY. TENSIONS OVER APPOINTMENT OF COLONEL DAMASCO TO INTERIOR MINISTRY REMAIN HIGH. DURING COURSE OF AUGUST 25 SEVERAL KEY MILITARY FIGURES MADE STATEMENTS WHICH WOULD SEEM TO BE BRINGING ISSUE TO HEAD. BOTH NEWSPAPERS AND TELEVISION COMMENTATORS OPENLY PREDICTING IMMINENT CHANGES IN LEADERSHIP OF ARMED FORCES, CABINET, OR BOTH. AS TELEGRAM BEING TYPED, EMBASSY RECEIVED REPORT THAT ARMY CINC NUMA LAPLANE HAD RESIGNED. END SUMMARY.

1. ON MORNING OF AUGUST 25 ARMY CINC NUMA LAPLANE DELIVERED EULOGY AT FUNERAL OF COLONEL VALLE LARRABURE. LAPLANE'S COMMENTS WERE A STRONG DEFENSE OF POSITION HE HAS TAKEN IN SUPPORT OF DAMASCO. AFTER DECLARING THAT ARMY WAS NOW IN FIGHT TO DEATH WITH GUERRILLAS, HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BUENOS 05716 261723Z

KILLERS OF LARRABURE INCLUDED NOT ONLY LEFTIST TERRORIST BUT

"ECONOMIC TERRORISTS", DISINTERESTED CITIZENRY, AND THOSE WHO DREAMED OF COUPS D'ETAT. HE SAID THAT FOR THE BENEFIT OF LATTER GROUP, THEIR HOPES FOR A COUP WERE SURE TO BE DISAPPOINTED, AS ARMY AND ARMED FORCES IN GENERAL SAW PRIMARY ROLE AS ONE OF DEFENDING CONSTITUTIONALISM.

2. WHILE LAPLANE DELIVERING FUNERAL ORATION, DEFENSE MINISTER GARRIDO MET SEPARATELY WITH NAVY CINC MASSERA AND AIR FORCE CINC FAUTARIO. FOLLOWING MEETINGS GARRIDO "LEAKED" TO PRESS STATEMENTS THAT THE RESULTS OF HIS MEETING WITH THE COMMANDERS HAD BEEN HIGHLY POSITIVE AND HAD ALLOWED THEM TO ARRIVE AT AGREEMENTS AMONG THE THREE COMMANDERS OVER MATTERS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE. SHORTLY AFTER THEY BECAME AWARE OF GARRIDO'S MANEUVER, NAVY AND AIR FORCE COMMANDERS HAD SPOKESMAN INFORM PRESS INFORMALLY THAT VERSION PUT OUT BY GARRIDO WAS OVERLY FAVORABLE TO THE POSITION OF LAPLANE AND NOT ACCURATE WITH RESPECT TO ISSUE DISCUSSED AT THEIR MEETING WITH GARRIDO.

3. AS TELEGRAM BEING TYPED, REPORT RECEIVED THAT ARMY CINC NUMA LAPLANE HAS JUST RESIGNED. THIS NOT YET DEFINITELY CONFIRMED, BUT WE BELIEVE IS TRUE. DIRECTOR OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE TOLD DCM THAT CORPS COMMANDERS AT ROSARIO (VIOLA) AND CORDOBA (DELIA LARROCA) HAD SENT LAPLANE TELEGRAMS THIS MORNING URGING HIS RESIGNATION. INFORMED SPECULATION IS THAT GEN. DELIA LARROCA, THIRD CORPS COMMANDER AND NEXT IN LINE ON SENIORITY LIST, WILL REPLACE LAPLANE AS ARMY CINC. REPORTEDLY, DAMASCO'S FATE IS STILL IN PLAY, BUT MOST SOURCES EXPECT THAT HE WILL HAVE TO STEP DOWN SHORTLY AS INTERIOR MINISTER. RESIGNATION OF NUMBA LAPLANE IS ANOTHER BLOW TO MRS. PERON'S PRESTIGE. IF FOLLOWED BY RESIGNATION OF DAMASCO IT WILL INDICATE CLEARLY THAT SHE WAS FORCED TO BACK DOWN BY MILITARY, THUS POINTING UP FACT THAT WHILE SHE REMAINS AS PRESIDENT, POWER EQUATION HAS SHIFTED DRAMATICALLY SINCE OUSTER OF LOPEZ/REGA LAST MONTH.  
HILL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL STABILITY, ARMED FORCES, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 AUG 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975BUENOS05716  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750295-0352  
**From:** BUENOS AIRES  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750815/aaaaamma.tel  
**Line Count:** 97  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 BUENOS AIRES 5679  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 06 OCT 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <06 OCT 2003 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <07 OCT 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TENSIONS IN ARMED FORCES  
**TAGS:** PINT, ASEC, MPOL, AR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006